

For Mr. Frank
Spencer

DDP 1-995

June 16, 1954

IV B 70

Dear Frank!

Manabu Enzei, formerly with the Japanese Foreign Office and assistant to Admiral Nomura when he was Japanese Ambassador to the United States in 1941 contacted me yesterday. During our conversation he advised that Admiral Kichiasaburo Nomura is being talked about in close political circles as a real dark horse to succeed Yoshida as Premier of Japan.

He related that Admiral Nomura was recently elected to the House of Counselors in the Diet of Japan, as an Independent belonging to no political party. It was understood that he was supported by both the Liberal and Progressive Parties despite the fact that he is an Independent.

According to Enzei, Nomura is very popular with all elements, except the left-wingers, in the several political parties of Japan. In view of Hatoyama's health and Shigemitsu's lack of support in

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The Federal Party, which is ^{the} pre-dominant party, there is no strong candidate other than Nomura, for a coalition supported by the Federal and Progressive parties.

From my own knowledge Nomura is quite popular with Matsuyama, one of the leaders of the Federal Party and with Shigemitsu, the President of the Progressive Party and it is not unreasonable to think that Nomura is a strong potential candidate in view of his status as an independent.

You are probably aware that Admiral Nomura is very strong pro-American and acted as an important in political matters for the Organization from 1950 to 1953. A review of the Tokyo files will indicate his stand on certain issues in which we were interested, such as "re-armament" etc. He is very strong for re-armament and in my opinion will be a good informant concerning the political situation in Japan.

Nomura is on a world tour for the Osaka-Bank Chemical Co., of which he is a director - His office is on the 6th floor 17 the San Shin Bldg, Tokyo, Japan.
Kind regards L

P. 5. If there is anything further regarding information on Admiral Nomura, whom I have known for 13 years - please advise me.